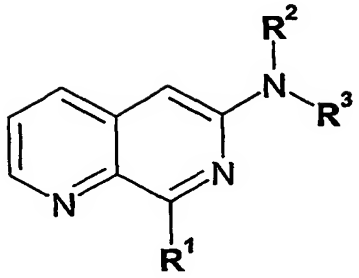
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I



I

in free or salt form, where

R^1 is a monovalent aromatic group having up to 10 carbon atoms, and

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a heterocyclic group having up to 10 ring atoms and having 1 to 4 hetero atoms in the ring system.

2. A compound according to claim 1, in which

R^1 is phenyl substituted by one or two substituents selected from cyano, halogen, carboxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, and optionally by C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_1-C_4-alkoxy, or R^1 is phenyl substituted by C_1-C_4-alkoxy, and

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a heterocyclic group having up to 6 ring atoms and one or two hetero atoms in the ring.

3. A compound according to claim 1, in which

R^1 is phenyl substituted by one or two substituents selected from cyano, halogen, carboxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy meta to the indicated naphthyridine ring and optionally by C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_1-C_4-alkoxy ortho to the indicated naphthyridine ring, or R^1 is phenyl substituted by C_1-C_4-alkoxy meta to the indicated naphthyridine ring, and

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a heterocyclyl group having up to 6 ring atoms and one or two nitrogen atoms, or one nitrogen atom and one oxygen atom, in the ring, optionally substituted by hydroxy, carboxy, 5-membered O-heterocyclylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_4-alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy, cyano, carboxy or C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl.

4. A compound according to claim 1 in which

R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted by one, two or three substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_1-C_8-alkylthio, -SO-C_1-C_8-alkyl, and phenyl fused with a heterocyclic ring having 3 to 8 ring atoms of which up to 4 can be carbon atoms and up to 4 can be hetero atoms, and

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a heterocyclic group having up to 6 ring atoms and one or two hetero atoms in the ring optionally substituted by carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_8-alkoxy or C_1-C_8-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_8-alkoxy, said heterocyclic group also optionally being substituted by C_1-C_8-alkyl or C_1-C_8-alkoxy.

5. A compound according to claim 4, in which

R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted by one, two or three substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, and phenyl fused with a heterocyclic ring having 5 or 6 ring atoms of which up to 4 can be carbon atoms and up to 2 can be hetero atoms, and

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a heterocyclic group having up to 6 ring atoms and one or two nitrogen atoms in the ring optionally substituted by carboxy, carboxy- C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkoxy, said heterocyclic group also optionally being substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl.

6. A compound according to claim 1, which is

3-[6-(3-hydroxy-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-[1,7]naphthyridin-8-yl]-benzonitrile;

3-{6-[4-(2-cyano-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-[1,7]naphthyridin-8-yl}-benzonitrile;

1-[8-(3-cyano-phenyl)-[1,7]naphthyridin-6-yl]-piperidine-4-carboxylic acid, lithium salt; or

3-(6-piperazin-1-yl-[1,7]naphthyridin-8-yl)-benzonitrile;

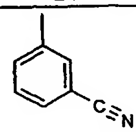
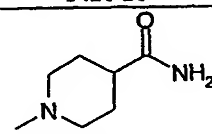
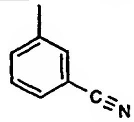
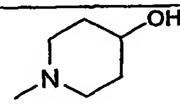
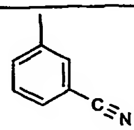
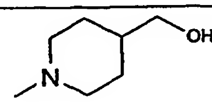
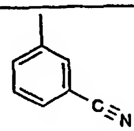
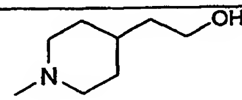
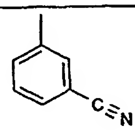
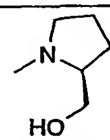
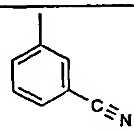
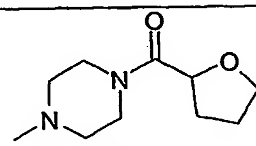
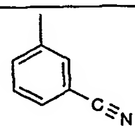
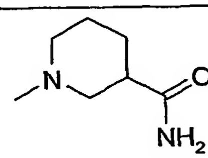
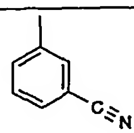
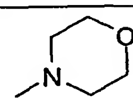
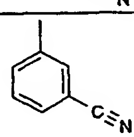
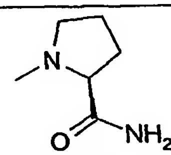
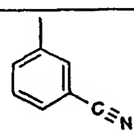
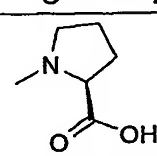
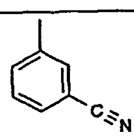
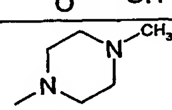
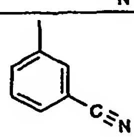
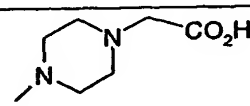
1-[8-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-[1,7]naphthyridin-6-yl]-piperidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

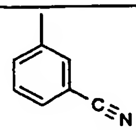
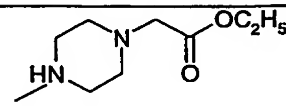
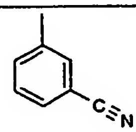
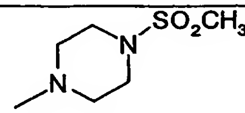
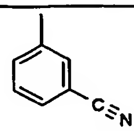
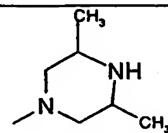
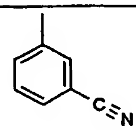
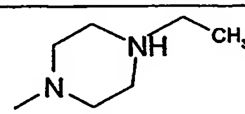
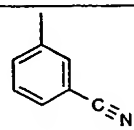
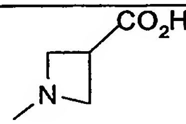
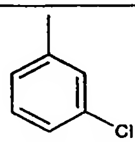
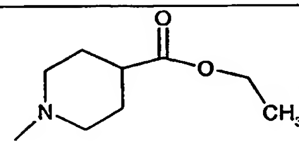
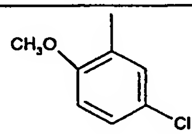
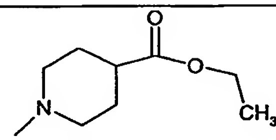
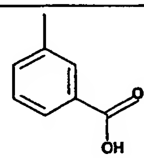
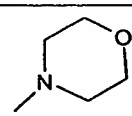
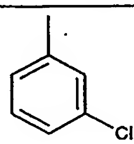
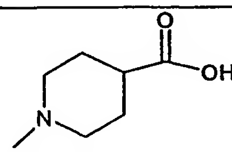
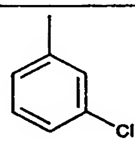
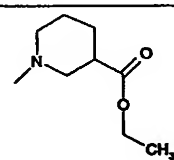
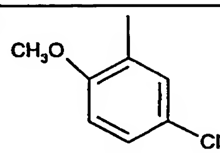
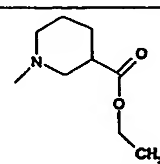
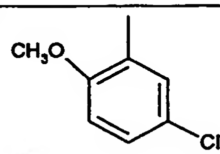
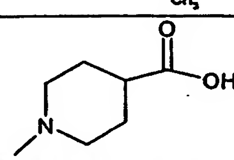
sodium 1-[8-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-[1,7]naphthyridin-6-yl]-piperidine-4-carboxylate;

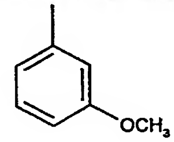
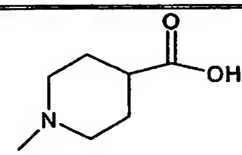
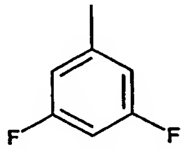
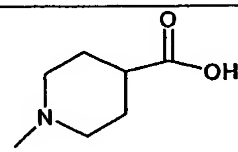
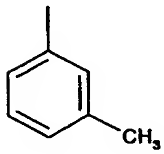
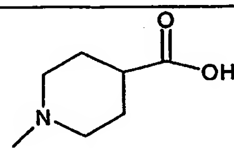
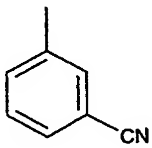
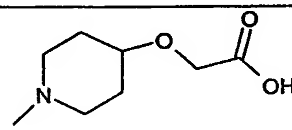
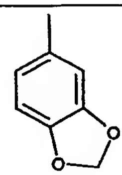
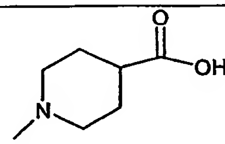
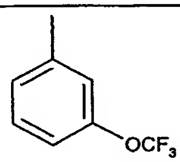
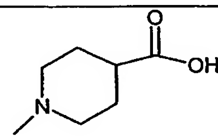
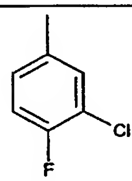
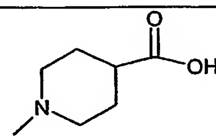
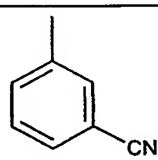
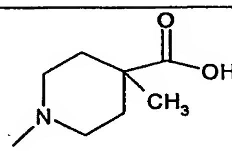
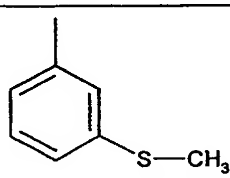
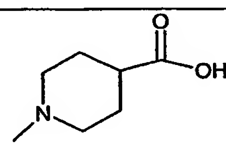
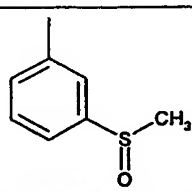
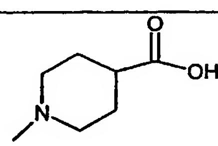
1-[8-(5-fluoro-2-methoxy-phenyl)-[1,7]naphthyridin-6-yl]-piperidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester; or

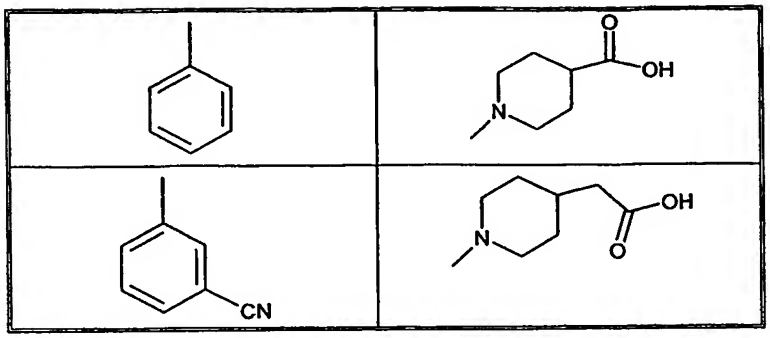
potassium 1-[8-(5-fluoro-2-methoxy-phenyl)-[1,7]naphthyridin-6-yl]-piperidine-4-carboxylate.

7. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and $-NR^2R^3$ are as shown in the following table:

R^1	NR^2R^3
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

 OCH3	 O OH N
 F F	 O OH N
 CH3	 O OH N
 CN	 O O OH N
 O O	 O OH N
 OCF3	 O OH N
 Cl F	 O OH N
 CN	 O OH CH3 N
 S—CH3	 O OH N
 CH3 S O	 O OH N



8. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims for use as a pharmaceutical.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

9. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a condition mediated by PDE4.

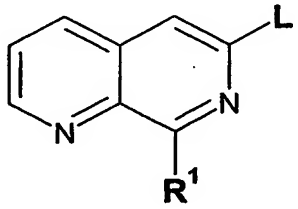
10. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 for the preparation of a medicament for the down-regulation or inhibition of TNF-α release.

11. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of an inflammatory disease.

12. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of an obstructive or inflammatory airways disease.

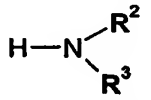
13. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula I in free or salt form which comprises

(iii) (A) reacting a compound of formula



II

optionally in protected form, where R^1 is as hereinbefore defined and L is a leaving atom or group, for example halogen or an aliphatic or aromatic sulfonyloxy group such as trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy, with a compound of formula



III

optionally in protected form, where R^2 and R^3 are as hereinbefore defined, followed by deprotection if required;

(B) reacting a compound of formula I, where R^2 and R^3 together with the attached nitrogen atom denote a heterocyclyl group substituted by a C_1-C_8-alkoxycarbonyl group, to convert the alkoxycarbonyl group into a carboxy;

(C) for the preparation of compounds of formula I where R^2 and R^3 together with the attached nitrogen atom denote a heterocyclyl group substituted by carboxy-C_1-C_8-alkoxy, hydrolysing a compound of formula I where R^2 and R^3 together with the attached nitrogen atom denote a heterocyclyl group substituted by C_1-C_8-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_8-alkoxy; or

(D) for the preparation of compounds of formula I when R^1 is phenyl substituted by -SO-C_1-C_8-alkyl, oxidising a compound of formula I where R^1 is phenyl substituted by C_1-C_8-alkylthio; and

(iv) recovering the product in free or salt form.